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MECHANIZATION ON LOW LEVEL IN HARVESTING OF KOK-SAGYZ

Planting of kok-sagyz has been particularly successful in low peat lands which have been drained. Lyuban'skiy Rayon in Bobruysk Oblast, Belorussian SSR, is a typical example of what can be done under such conditions. The area sown with kok-sagyz in this region tripled in 1948 while the average root harvest went up 20 percent. Such advanced kolkhozes as the "Chernova zmena" and the "Komsomolets" have achieved an average yield of 50 centurers per acre. Yields of 193 and 200 contrers per hectars have been achieved in exceptional cases.

The division of land among kolkhozes in this area is as follows: 19 kolkhozes have up to 100 hectares of land each; 16 have 101 - 200 hectares; 4 have 200 - 300 hectares; 14 have 301 - 500 hectares; and 7 have over 500 hectares.

Every kolkhoz was a permanent reclamation brigade of 10 - 20 workers. workers on kolkhozes who are not occupied after the spring sowing are added to the brigates for this work. Under this work regime, kolkhozes are able to finish their planmed reclamation 15 - 20 days ahead of time.

Since mechanization in kok-sagyz harvesting is still on a very low level, the system of individual plot responsibility is used. Each worker of a brigade is responsible for 0.27 hactares. This system is found to encourage socialist competition.

During the seed-collection season, school children help the workers. The root gathering was completed between 5 and 15 October in 1948. Every kolkhoz woman harvested an area assigned to her. In a 50-centner-per-hectare harvest, the labor input is 143 man-days per hectare. By using a tractor and nest-sowing machine, and mechanizing seed collection and root digging, the labor input for one hectare of kok-sagyz crop could be cut to 95 man-days.

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